

M/023/024 *HL*

DEC 15 1993

MINERAL MATERIALS
COMPLIANCE FIELD REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

INSPECTION DATE: October 19, 1993
REPORTING DATE: December 9, 1993
INSPECTOR: Rody Cox

CASE NAME: Ash Grove Cement Co., County Canyon Shale Quarry
SERIAL NO.: UTU-070554
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 12 S., R. 2½ W., Sec. 25, S
APPLICATION TYPE: Negotiated Sale
COMMODITY DESCRIPTION: Shale
TOTAL ACREAGE: Approximately 7 acres
(~4 acres for the quarry + ~3 acres for road)
RESOURCE AREA: House Range Resource Area
DATE OF PREVIOUS INSPECTION: None

CUBIC YARDS PERMITTED FOR REMOVAL SINCE LAST INSPECTION:
100,000 cu. yd.

ACTIVITY SINCE LAST INSPECTION: Phase I mining activity

CALCULATED VOLUME REMOVED (Show calculation): 32,104 tons reported removed by Ash Grove Cement. This converts to 14,863 bank cubic yards (using 2.16 tons/bcy). An revised conversion factor based on production data will be requested. Baseline and annual survey data is required to verify volumes. This survey data is due for submittal on or before January 10, 1994.

STIPULATION VIOLATIONS (Reference Stipulations by Number):

This compliance inspection revealed no serious stipulation violations. With the exception of one empty 55 gal. drum, the site was clean and free from garbage and debris. No safety hazards to the public or livestock were seen.

Stipulation 11. states, "Revegetation test plots would be developed and monitored by Ash Grove Cement Company. The BLM would monitor these test plots during surface compliance inspections."

No revegetation test plot was observed during this inspection. The operator will be contacted and asked to confirm the presence of revegetation test plots. If the test plots have not been initiated the operator will be required to contact this office for assistance in establishing the test plots.

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NARRATIVE REPORT

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Some potential problems exist at the quarry site. These are discussed below:


The operating plan for the quarry states, "Topsoil stripped during phases I and II will be stockpiled at the north pit limits to facilitate reclamation after mining." The plan maps supplied with their Plan of Operations show a berm above the highwall as the topsoil storage stockpile.

For the most part this berm is nonexistent, some juniper trees and other vegetative material along with sparse soil comprise a nominal berm above the north highwall. It appears the majority of the topsoil was pushed off to the east into an existing drainage. The operator will be contacted and informed, if topsoil is missing or lost as a result unauthorized operating practices, they will be required to haul in and replace the deficient quantity. A small seep of water has developed in the blocked drainage.

Compounding problems related to the apparent shortage of stockpiled topsoil is, in the Notice of Intention to Conduct Large Mining Operations, submitted to the Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining, Ash Grove Cement Co., committed to spreading 1 ft. of topsoil over the reclaimed site (V.3.(d)). Ash Grove also acknowledged an anticipated shortfall of 2,000 cu.yd. of topsoil. This is because it was estimated that less than one foot (8-12") of topsoil was present prior to stripping. The operator proposed to make up the shortfall from alluvial borrow on Federal land directly south of the pit (V.3.(c)).

Any additional deficit beyond the 2,000 cu.yd. of topsoil may be a direct result of the operator not following the proposed mine plan. Therefore, it is recommended we do not authorize any proposal to supplement the topsoil reserves with more than 2,000 cu.yd. of alluvial borrow.

Shortly after signing of the material sales contract, this office received a corporate surety bond in the amount of \$21,600. Half the amount (\$10,800) is retained as additional security for the full and faithful performance of the contract by the purchaser and is to be applied to the payment of the last installment. Additional payments are made in installments of \$10,800, in advance of removing the shale. The contract price of the shale is \$0.50 and Ash Grove Cement Co. has reported removing 32,100 tons as of September 30, 1993, which is 10,504 tons more than what was covered by their first payment. Prior to the removal of that material, this office should have received an additional installment of \$10,800. The operator will be informed the payment is past due and is payable immediately. They will also be reminded that future payments are to be made prior to removing the shale.



Signature of Inspector

Inspection entered into ORCA: YES